convenient locations and augmenting the medical/administrative team.

Interview given by the Cabinet Secretary to Saudi Paper

6624. SHRI VERENDRA KATARIA:
SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an interview of the Cabinet Secretary Shri Zafar Saifullah, to a Saudi Paper last month which was published on okaz in Riyadh, a week before Pakistan tabled its resolution on Kashmir;

(b) if so, what are the details of the replies given to the press by Shri Saifullah;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Shri Saifullah is reported to have spoken of the Government's failure to protect the Babri Masjid from Hindu onslaught and also dissatisfaction with the representation of minorities in Government jobs; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government of India in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Saudi paper, OKAZ, carried on 18.2.94 an interview, the account of which was found by the paper itself to have been grossly distorted, and in consequence of which it published the correct version as per its records is not only the OKAZ newspaper on 8.4.94 but also in its English daily, the Arab News, on 9.4.94 with a condensed version appearing also in another newspaper, the Riyadh Daily, on 4.4.94.

(b) The questions posed at the interview of the Cabinet secretary focussed on the Cabinet Secretary's functions, the conditions of muslims in India, constrains faced by Muslims in India, the future of the muslim minority, the demolition of Babri Masjid vis-a-vis Hindu extremism positions of importance held by Muslims, and Indo-Saudi relations. The Cabinet Secretary, while characterizing the demolition of the structure as an act of barbarism, had stressed that the Government of India had taken swift corrective action in the wake of the incident. He had also mentioned that a number of persons have been indicted because of their connivance with this act and also that the Government of India stands committed to the construction of the mosque, as stated by the Prime Minister on a number of occasions. Regarding the representation of minorities in Government jobs, the Cabinet Secretary had mentioned, inter alia, that India is truly secular society in which religious minorities are not discriminated against and also that the Government of India has been making assiduous efforts to rectify the situation (with regard to jobs in Government services and in the public sector) and to create an environment in which people of all communities are given fair and adequate opportunity to get employment in the Government and public sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Pak Attempts to Fund Subversives Through Nepal Bank

6625. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Economics Times, New Delhi of 4th March, 1994 under the heading Pak attempt to fund subversives through Nepal Bank;

(b) if so, whether Government have ascertained the terms and conditions of joint agreement between Habib Bank of Pakistan and Himalayan Bank of Kathmandu and if so, the details thereof;